

THE LOOKMAN REPORT 2021

Week Nine – Chip on My Shoulder

“When people doubt me, I want to prove them wrong. For me, being as competitive as I am, the bigger the challenge for me, the better for me.” — Browns QB (Cake) Baker Mayfield

PROLOGUE

The Look Man has seen a lot in five decades of watching the NFL, but last week took the proverbial cake. Pack QB Aaron (Buck) Rodgers was caught lying about his vaccine status, and then doubling down before State Farm reigned him in. The Raiders lost two first round draft picks in the blink of an eye. And Odell Beckham Junior (OBJ) leveraged his way out of Cleveland because (Cake) Baker Mayfield can't or won't throw him the ball.

There were also tremendous upsets in Week Nine. According to one rumor, Draft Kings was down \$25 million going into Monday Night Football. Tennessee, Cleveland, Denver, Jacksonville, and the Jynts all covered and won against superior opponents. It may not have been the annual Xanadu Week, but it was nice to see 'dogs win.

Week Nine ended with the ultimate Zebra of the Week, when Tony Corrente singlehandedly defeated the Chicago Bears. Corrente wiped out a Bears TD, made an indefensible taunting call while hip-checking Bears LB Cassius Marsh, and gift wrapped the game for Big Ben. It was the nadir of NFL officiating in 2021, and that is saying a lot after the horrid calls week-in and week out.

The Cincinnati Bengals have fallen from the AFC One Seed, to mediocrity in two weeks. The entire AFC is up for grabs, with Tennessee and Buffalo in the lead, but nearly everyone else in the hunt.

Without further ado, the Look Man Report 2021 for Week Nine.

LAGNIAPPE

At Home with Emily Mayfield II

The Rams are fresh off: (1) getting destroyed by the more physical Flaming Thumbtacks at home and (2) signing a deep ball receiver to replace DeSean (DSJ) Jackson. Apparently, DSJ wanted to see the ball too much, and created locker room angst.

Enter OBJ, who never saw the ball in Cleveland, perhaps because he was sleeping with Emily Mayfield. The Look Man was able to place a secret hidden microphone *At Home With Baker Mayfield*, and it turns out that OBJ was pulling a Delonte West, only involving Cake's wife, not his mom.

Here's the transcript:

Emily: “Oh, come on OBJ, he won't be home for hours.”

OBJ: “Yeah, but I have a reputation for dating only beautiful women.”

Emily: “Not the bag again!”

OBJ: “You know it.”

Emily: “Hey, that beer mug looks like a secret hidden micropho...”

Transmission ends.

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The Delonte Effect strikes again in C-Town...

Dak for President?

Pokes QB Dak Prescott stunk it up last week in a loss to Denver, but the MVP talk has not died down. In fact, Dak should not even have played due to a calf injury, but his numbers since the New England game are awful. He is still tied for sixth place in MVP odds, despite looking a lot worse than Lamar (Action) Jackson, who is carrying Baltimore with eighteen guys on IR.

The Dak MVP discussion is really just part of the odd national obsession that the Pokes are America's Team. They have roughly the same number of playoff wins as Cleveland over the last twenty years, despite being in a division that absolutely stinks. And those red, white and blue helmets were the height of arrogance in Week Nine.



America's QB – Dak Prescott?

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Browns Fan

Cleveland used to have some of the most sophisticated fans in the NFL, before they lost the team to Baltimore. Since the 1999 return, Browns Fan has become the village idiot, saying stupid things nearly weekly. The most recent occurrence was at Pall Bearer Stadium on Sunday, when two Browns fans told the Look Man, “We don’t need OBJ; we have Chubb.”

The Look Man’s response was unprintable, but basically said that the NFL is not just a fantasy league, it’s real life. And having heard the foolishness, the Football Gods immediately gave Chubb and Demetric Felton the ‘Rona, and both will miss the Chowds game on Sunday.

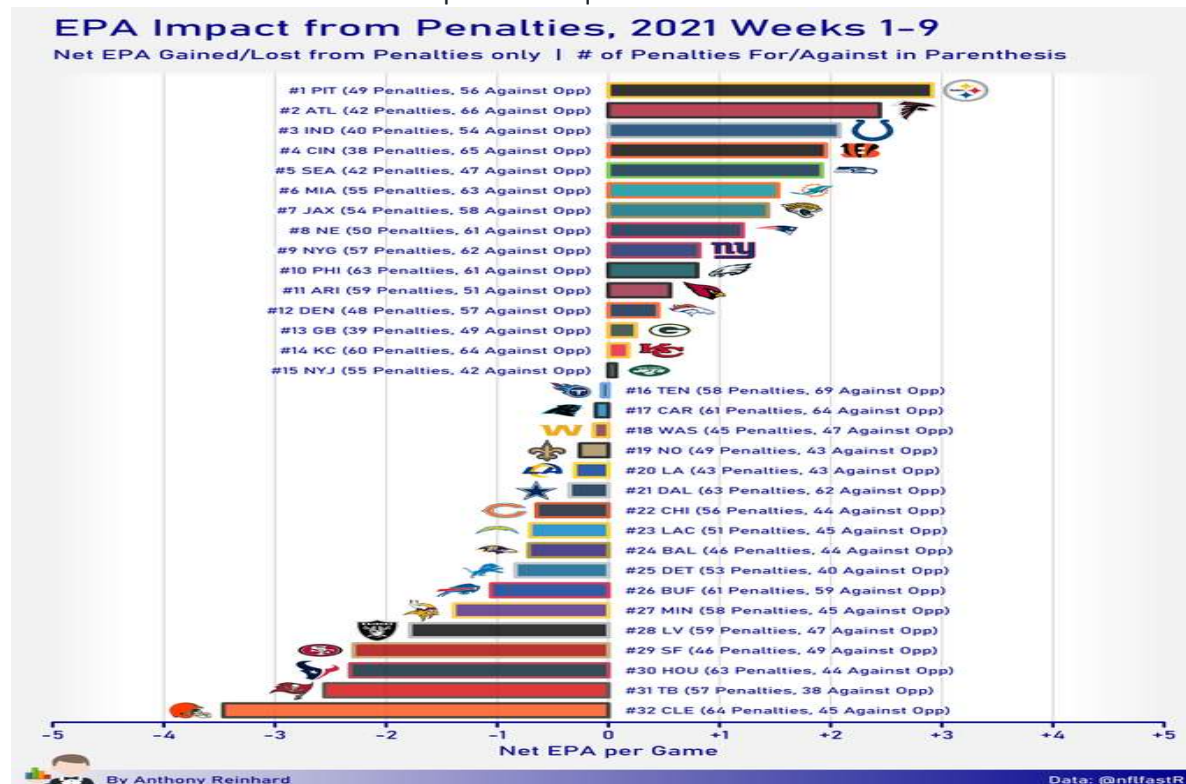
Luckily, Cleveland has (Cake) Baker Mayfield, who will either: (a) save the day with an historic performance, or (b) choke like the bum he really is, and blame his bad foot for an off day.

ZEBRA OF THE WEEK

Fans of the Cleveland Browns have noticed the number and timing of calls in 2021, and they contribute to the mediocre record. In point of fact, the penalties have coincided with owner Jimmy Haslam Pilot troubles, in which he bilked truckers out of millions. The play where RB Duke Johnson Jr. came out of the pile with the football but the zebras awarded the fumble to the defense stands out, but there are many, many more instances.

A blown pass interference call on a Hail Mary against the Bolts and roughing the passer call in the Arizona game both happened in 2021, and Myles Garrett gets held on nearly every play. It hasn’t stopped Garrett from the leading the NFL in sacks, but who knows how many he would have if they were called.

This chart shows the most and least penalized squads in 2021:



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The Stillers top the list for fewest flags, and Cleveland has contributed to the issue with dumb alignment penalties, but these numbers are fugazi.

The Look Man hopes the trend does not continue at the Blade on Sunday, but the rules of football rarely apply. It's a Matrix level phenomenon, as New England climbs back into the AFC playoff race on the strength of bad calls. The Dallas game sticks out, and the Look Man is still waiting for a fine/suspension on QB Mack Jones for tearing a defender's leg off last week.

THE LOOKAHEAD

Blue Man Group at Cheeseheads (-4.5)

QB Aaron Rodgers shall now be known as He Who Shall Not Be Named (HWSNBN), and looks to play after his COVID quarantine. The Look Man hopes he and the Pack lose all their remaining games after this round of stupidity and deception.

Meanwhile, Coffeetown QB (Dange)Russ Wilson is back, baby, with a pretty healed middle finger. DangeRuss wants to share that finger with the Cheeseheads, who have historically owned Seattle. But that was before HWSNBN embarrassed the Pack and the NFL with his foolishness.

The Zebras typically provide a lot of latitude at Flambeau, but not this week. The Look Man likes Seattle to dismantle the Pack, en route to a comeback to relevance. Blue Man Group covers and wins.

Bengals at Bye (-14)

Joe (Goat Boy) Burrow has looked both incredible and awful in 2021, and the 99-yard pick six to Browns CB Denzel (Washington) Ward was laughable. Ward allowed one 11-yard completion on the day, and looks like an All Pro despite missing time to injury. He needs to get in the weight room and put down the Chronic.

As for Goat Boy, he needs an O-line to go with his receiving corps. He got dumped early and often, and in spite of DE Myles Garrett getting held all day. Garrett might as well have a quarter slod and saddle on his back as much as he is being ridden by O-linemen. Not sure why he cannot get a call.

Bye covers and wins against Cincinnati.



D-Ward in Training Day

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Browns at Chowds (-1)

The Browns beat the stripes off the Bungals last week at Dawg Pound South, and their reward is to travel to Foxboro in Week Ten. Mac Jones looked like Rookie of the Year before the unfortunate ankle biting/leg sweep in Week Nine. Even with few weapons, Mac the Knife is carving up the AFC Least has won four in a row.

The Browns still need to run the ball, but the Look Man figured out the problem: Cake Baker is a rhythm passer, and when the Browns run the ball in the first quarter, he cannot establish a rhythm. As a result, he stinks in ground and pound, and has never mastered the Two-minute Offense.

In addition, Cake only excels only after the national media kills him. The Browns are fresh off a decent Cake performance, but he doesn't have the chip on his shoulder for Week Ten.

The Chowds feast with a Clam Bake, win the game and set up another Chip on the Shoulder game for Lions-Browns in Week Eleven. Chowds.

Dirty Birds at Pokes (-10)

It's the Lookahead Factor. The ATL plays New England in Week Eleven, and the Pokes are ticked off after laying an egg during Homecoming Week against the Donkeys. Atlanta is the NFC team no one is talking about, but they have been as hot as any team of late.

Doomsday Lite has reverted to form after several good weeks, and pass rushers DeMarcus Lawrence and randy Gregory are idle this week. Atlanta covers, setting up a Super Bowl rematch with New England on Thursday Night. Dirty Birds cover and win.

Cadillacs at Blitzburgh (-9.5)

The Still Curtain is coming off a gift win over da Bears, and do not look good. Big Ben is old and slow, the defense is mediocre, and HC Mike Tomlin is manufacturing wins. Enter the hard luck Lions, who are winless despite multiple close calls.

Here's the deal: the Stillers will overlook the Lions, especially with Cincinnati in Week Eleven on the horizon. A loss to Cincinnati could seal Blitzburgh's playoff fate. Lions cover.

Religious Icons at Flaming Thumbtacks (-3)

The Icons got beat by the best NFC team no one is discussing in the ATL, and look to get back on the right side of the ledger at Nashville. The 'Tacks destroyed the Rams at Sofi, and return home as the AFC One Seed.

This NOLA defense is underrated, and can stuff the run. Look for them to do just that with RB Derrick (King) Henry on IR. Tannehill gets nervous with pressure in his face, and the Icons can bring the pain.

New Orleans gets it right with Trevor Siemian at QB and Mark Ingram at RB. Icons cover and win a slobberknocker. Icons.

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Expensive Corn Kings at WFT (+10.5)

Brady and the Corn Kings go to DC following a Bye Week, and Tom Terrific is salivating. DE Chase Young is having a subpar year, and DE Montez (Keith) Sweat is out. This WFT defense is a shell of its 2020 self, and Brady never loses after a bye week.

Tampa resumes its climb to the Lombardi via tough and hard-hitting defense and offense. They have too many weapons for Washington, but Tampa lacks a deep threat with Antonio Brown out, and 10.5 points is too much here. Plus, Brady will be looking ahead to the Jyntz on Monday Night. Apparently, the G-Men owe Tawmmy a ring or two. Bud Light and the WFT cover.

Black Cats at Desert Birds (-10.5)

Carolina reacquired Cam Newton following a throwing shoulder injury to QB Sam Darnold. Former XFL QB PJ Walker gets the start, facing a solid Arizona defense. The Deadbirds just destroyed Jimmy G and an injury depleted Niners team behind backup QB Colt (My little Pony) McCoy. You know you stink when My Little Pony beats you.

The Look Man cannot reconcile the Desert Birds being double digit favorites with the return of RB Christian (Col. Mustard Jr.) McCafferty and the lookahead to a division game at Seattle in Week Eleven. Carolina covers.

Baby Backs at Gamblers (KC at Vegas) (+2.5) Football Night in America

KC goes on the road to visit the Death Star in Vegas, to face the always tough Raiders. Derek Carr has surprised in a season in which his head coach (and next-door neighbor) was fired, his best wideout is charged with vehicular homicide and his best CB was released after going all Aaron Hernandez.

Enter the offensively challenged Baby Backs, with Mahomes reverting to his collegiate interception rate, and you have an AFC West slobberknocker. The Look Man believes the Raiders lost at the G-Men due to the Lookahead Factor. They want to beat KC in the worst way, and D-linemen Maxx (Bing) Crosby and Yannick Ngakoue (means “bad man” in Swahili) have harmful intentions.

It is noteworthy that KC just signed LB Melvin Ingram, formerly of the Bolts and Stillers. The acquisition means DT Chris Jones can slide back to DT, creating havoc in the middle. Carr hates havoc in the middle, and has a propensity for error when the pocket gets tight.

Vegas just signed WR DeSean Jackson, creating speed matchups deep, and they already have the best TE in the AFC in Darren Waller. Vegas covers and wins at home, throwing the Chiefs into turmoil for a Week Eleven matchup at Dallas. Raiders.



“It’s all about the ball. That’s why we lost. Please. Just talk about me turning the ball over.” – Raiders QB Derek Carr after a pick six and a cover-your-eyes ugly performance at the Meadowlands.

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Rams at Niners (+5.5) Monday Night Football

Rams beat the snot out of Jimmy G and the Niners, and OBJ has his eye on a ring AND a movie career. By the way, he is going to be awesome in LA this season, shutting up Browns Fan, and underscoring an embarrassing front office in Cleveland. Rams.

EPILOGUE

The NFL is at an officiating crossroad, with Walt (Disney) Anderson calling games from his Manhattan sofa. The headsets worn by the Zebras represent a direct hotline to NFL HQ, and inevitably lead to, “....after discussion, the ruling on the field is....”

While getting the calls right is the goal, the Look Man is not interested in taking the game away from the officials. And the intrusion of Walt Disney and NYC does exactly that. Zebras are now calling fouls that they haven't seen, waiting for NFL HQ to sort them out. It makes for unwatchable games, bad clock management and a loss of offensive rhythm.

It took 55 years for a home team to play the Super Bowl in their home stadium. If the LA Rams make it to February, they will represent back-to-back home teams in the game. And the NFL would love to see revenue to cover a half billion-dollar lawsuit by the City of St. Louis.

Peace,

The Look Man